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The Canadian Commonwealth. By AGNES LAUT. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1915. 8vo, pp. 334. \$1.50.

"A democratized edition of a Greater Britain Overseas" is the goal of Canada's destiny. To compel assent to this assertion the author discusses vital Canadian problems, such as immigration, defense, government, the significance of the Panama Canal, and the development of natural resources. Though the present state of Canadian politics and Canadian party government is certainly too rosy depicted in this book, it is, without doubt, no mistake to predict a great future growth for the young nation.

The conduct of the nations involved in the present war stimulates much speculation as to national policy. The author points out that in the past Canada has relied too exclusively on individual initiative and wealth of natural resources, and that the evidence of the present hour points definitely to the great value of state action in the development of native energies and the promotion of national efficiency. Whether Canada requires extensive state interference is questionable; but scarcely a person will hesitate to agree with the author that the Dominion needs more government initiative in the way of conservation and the establishment of more public works.

The book is not politically or economically profound, but it presents the problem in a non-academic style which, though at times bombastic, is nevertheless stimulating in its raciness, and hope-bringing to a nation in the toils of anxiety and suffering.

The Normal Life. By EDWARD T. DEVINE. New York: Survey Associates, 1915. 12mo, pp. 233. \$1.00.

The author has given here a vigorous twentieth-century philosophy of life, at once idealistic and practical. His method of approach is best given in his own words when he states the object to be one of seeing "some old problems in a new light, taking for the background the normal individual life, and, following it through from beginning to end, trying to determine what are the social conditions essential to each state in securing it." The normal life is not a long-drawn-out existence, nor yet an impossibly idealistic state, but that complete experience possible for each one of us in realizing the best in life.

Dr. Devine has not passed by as non-existent the pathological conditions of society; these he has met squarely, not by making an issue of them, but by showing their incongruity in the normal life. There is no place in the picture for neglected orphans, child workers, ignorant and inefficient men and women; for drunkenness, vice, or habitual crime; for premature old age or early death. Dr. Devine tells why and how they are not necessary.

The treatment at times is brief, especially in arguments for economic reforms, but the terms are broad and suggestive rather than detailed. The

field is broad, the problems those of the range of human activity, and it is to the credit of the writer that all have been handled so well.

The House on Henry Street. By LILLIAN D. WALD. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1915. 8vo, pp. 317. \$2.00.

The founder of the House on Henry Street tells of the beginning and growth of that New York East Side Settlement which started with an "inspiration to be of use" and has become a great influence in the city and state. Miss Wald had as a foundation for her work, training in a nurses' school and a medical college, and a desire to serve. She began by giving instruction in home nursing in an old building in Henry Street, and from there a little child led her into an experience that determined her to live among the people she wanted to help. She spends few words on the discomforts which she and her fellow-worker, Mary M. Brewster, suffered, but passes quickly to the reform movements that have been instituted or adopted as a part of the settlement work. She gives many examples of some concrete problem whose solution involved the solving of greater problems: through Louis "who would not cure his head" she first realized the duty of the school to provide medical attention for its children, and through the daughter of a neighbor she first became acquainted with the question of the trade union. Her attitude of appreciation for co-operation received in the past and of hopefulness for the future, and her sympathetic interpretation of the incidents she has chosen to give, make the book pleasant reading. Its worth is added to by the etchings which were drawn by "one who had found his art expression there."

Business Economics. By ERNEST L. BOGART. (LaSalle Business Texts.) Chicago: LaSalle Extension University, 1915. 8vo, pp. viii+268. \$2.00.

As an elementary textbook attempting to give a general outline of the field of economics this book may be considered fairly satisfactory. It treats of various industrial problems such as unemployment, crises, and the trusts, and gives a few outstanding facts concerning natural resources, banking, and transportation, and the general nature of capitalistic production. Some of the subjects touched upon lend themselves to abbreviation and concise statement better than others and consequently are more adequately discussed. Such a subject as "Saving and Spending," for example, might safely be attempted in fourteen pages, whereas it is hardly possible to begin on the subject "Money and Banking" in nine. However, the book is lucid and well written, and of its kind it must be admitted to be a good example.